

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. to 12. (Cancelled)
13. (Currently Amended) ~~The post system of claim 12~~ A post system for a railing, the post system comprising:
  - a railing post comprising an elongated tubular body having first and second ends;
  - an insert snugly insertable within said first end of said railing post to engage an interior face of the railing post;
  - a post base connectable to said first end of said railing post, said post base comprising a housing portion configured to snugly engage said railing post, said post base comprising an inner structural member made of a first material completely encased within a surface member made of a second material different than the first material, the inner structural member having top and bottom surfaces and apertures extending through the inner structural member between the top and bottom surfaces, the surface member having portions extending through the apertures,
  - the post base having a top surface, a bottom surface and a plurality of bores extending between the top and bottom surfaces of the post base through the portions of the surface member, the bores completely lined by the second material of the surface member,wherein said insert comprises one or more engagement members for engaging the interior face of the railing post, each engagement member comprising a projection received in a

corresponding channel in the interior face of the railing post.

14. to 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The post system of claim [[12]]\_13, comprising one or more fasteners, each fastener extending through a corresponding one of the bores for connecting said post base to said railing post.

17.to 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The post system of claim [[12]]\_13, the top surface of said post base comprising a plurality of horizontal flat surfaces, at least one of said bores intersecting each of said horizontal flat surfaces for receiving a deck fastener capable of securing the post base to a deck surface.

22. (Previously Presented) The post system of claim 21, the top surface of said post base further comprising an outer wall top surface that is sloped to distribute water away from said railing post, said outer wall top surface adjacent to said horizontal flat surfaces.

23. to 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A post base according to claim [[26]]\_29 wherein the top surface of the post base comprises a plurality of horizontal flat top surface portions, each of the horizontal flat top surface portions intersected substantially perpendicularly by at least one of the bores.

28. (Cancelled)
29. (Currently Amended) ~~A post base according to claim 28~~ A post base for supporting a first end of a railing post, the post base comprising:  
an inner structural member made of a first material completely encased within a surface member made of a second material different than the first material, the inner structural member having top and bottom surfaces and apertures extending through the inner structural member between the top and bottom surfaces, the surface member having portions extending through the apertures,  
the post base having a top surface, a bottom surface and a plurality of bores extending between the top and bottom surfaces of the post base through the portions of the surface member, the bores completely lined by the second material of the surface member  
wherein the bottom surface of the post base comprises one or more co-planar horizontal flat bottom surface portions, each of the horizontal flat bottom surface portions intersected substantially perpendicularly by at least one of the bores  
wherein a central recessed portion of the bottom surface of the post base is recessed relative to the one or more horizontal flat bottom surface portions.
30. (Previously Presented) A post base according to claim 29 wherein one or more of the plurality of bores is located in a central region of the post base and extends between the top surface of the post base and the central recessed portion.

31. (Previously Presented) A post base according to claim 29 wherein the bottom surface of the post base comprises one or more channels extending between the central recessed portion and an outer periphery of the post base.
32. (Previously Presented) A post base according to claim 27, wherein the plurality of horizontal flat top surface portions comprises four horizontal flat top surface portions located at four corresponding corners of the top surface of the post base.
33. to 37. (Cancelled)
38. (Currently Amended) A post base according to claim [[26]] 29 wherein the top surface of the post base comprises a top surface central recess dimensioned to receive an end of [[a]] the railing post to be supported by the post base.
39. (Previously Presented) A post base according to claim 38 wherein the top surface of the post base comprises an outer wall top surface portion located around at least a portion of the perimeter of the top surface central recess wherein the outer wall top surface portion is sloped outwardly away from the top surface central recess to distribute water away from said railing post.
40. (Currently Amended) A post base ~~according to claim 26 for supporting a first end of a railing post, the post base comprising:~~  
a member having top and bottom surfaces and apertures extending through the member between the top and bottom

surfaces, the top surface configured to receive one end of a railing post;

~~wherein the bottom surface of the post base comprises comprising a horizontal planar outer portion surrounding a central recessed portion and one or more channels, each channel extending through the planar outer portion between the central recessed portion and an outer periphery of the post base.~~

41. (New) A post base according to claim 40 further comprising one or more channels, each channel extending through the planar outer portion from the central recessed portion to an outer periphery of the post base.
42. (New) A post base according to claim 41 comprising a plurality of bores for receiving fasteners capable of securing the post base to the post, the plurality of bores extending between the bottom surface and a post-receiving portion of the top surface.
43. (New) A post base according to claim 42 wherein the plurality of bores extend between the central recessed portion of the bottom surface and the post-receiving portion of the top surface.
44. (New) A post base according to claim 42, the top surface comprising one or more horizontal flat surfaces, at least one of the apertures intersecting each of the horizontal flat surfaces for receiving a fastener capable of securing the post base to a deck surface.

45. (New) A post base according to claim 44, the top surface comprising a housing portion configured to receive and engage the post.
46. (New) A post base according to claim 44, the top surface comprising a housing portion having an inner wall and an outer wall, the housing portion configured to receive the post within the inner wall.
47. (New) A post base according to claim 46, the inner wall being dimensioned to provide a circumferential gap between the inner wall and the post when the post is connected to the post base.
48. (New) A post base according to claim 46, the outer wall top surface being sloped to distribute water away from the post, the outer wall top surface adjacent to the horizontal flat surfaces.
49. (New) A post base according to claim 48, the apertures comprising a drainage aperture extending through the post base between the housing portion and the central recessed portion of the bottom surface.
50. (New) A post base according to claim 49 further comprising:
  - an inner structural member made of a first structural material completely encased within a surface member made of a second structural material different from the first structural material;
  - the inner structural member having top and bottom surfaces, the apertures and the bores extending through the

inner structural member between the top and bottom surfaces;  
and

the apertures and the bores being completely lined by  
the second structural material of the surface member.

51. (New) A post base according to claim 50 wherein the first structural material is a metallic material.
52. (New) A post base according to claim 51 wherein the first structural material is steel.
53. (New) A post base according to claim 51 wherein the second structural material is a corrosion-resistant structural material.
54. (New) A post base according to claim 52 wherein the second structural material is aluminum.
55. (New) A post system for a railing, the post system comprising:
  - a railing post comprising an elongated tubular body having first and second ends and a plurality of channels in walls of the railing post for engaging fasteners;
  - a post base connectable to the first end of the railing post, the post base comprising a housing portion adapted to receive and snugly engage the railing post;
  - the post base having a top surface, a bottom surface and a plurality of bores extending between the top and bottom surfaces of the post base, the bores including bores that are aligned with the channels when the railing post is engaged in the housing portion.

56. (New) A post system according to claim 55 wherein the bottom surface of the post base comprises a planar outer portion surrounding a central recessed portion and one or more channels, each channel extending through the planar outer portion between the central recessed portion and an outer periphery of the post base.
57. (New) A post system according to claim 55 wherein the top surface of the post base comprises an outer wall top surface portion located around at least a portion of the railing post wherein the outer wall top surface portion is sloped outwardly away from the railing post to distribute water away from the railing post.
58. (New) A post system according to claim 55 wherein the top surface of the post base comprises a plurality of flat top surface portions, each of the flat top surface portions intersected substantially perpendicularly by at least one of the bores.
59. (New) A post base according to claim 58, wherein the plurality of horizontal flat top surface portions comprises four horizontal flat top surface portions located at four corresponding corners of the top surface of the post base.
60. (New) A post base according to claim 55 wherein the bottom surface of the post base comprises one or more channels extending between a central recessed portion of the bottom surface and an outer periphery of the post base.
61. (New) A post system according to claim 55 comprising a plurality of fasteners, the fasteners each insertable

through a corresponding one of the bores and engageable with one of the channels to connect the post base to the railing post.